Wilmington Oct 29 [illegible]

Dear D[illegible]

[illegible] Hyams' note with your pleasant information of latter part of next allowing them to see Shortia in its native haunts! The Burke County is one, if I mistake not, of Curtis's old hunting grounds. What a pity that he did not have the feather in his cap. Still none more pleased [than] we all should have been had you won the prize.

Well I am glad I said nothing on the way to Hyams, and his son at least is deserving of the credit and the profit. But I confess "that in Botany, pure and simple, I don't like trade. I once wrote that the fifty most useful herbaria in the world had each good specimens of the plant" "gratis-for nothing". But after all: the main thing is that the plant is re-discovered.

You remember perhaps that when I was last at Cambridge we had some talk about the blooming of the Southern Rhododendron. It will be early in May or by June 10th there should be in this plan.

Looking at the atlas since writing above I see that we must all have been in McDowell County as it adjoins Buncombe and Hickory Nut and Swannanoa Gap, are on its western line. So when you said that Michaux must have found Shortia on the eastern sides of the Black Mts, you came very close to the mark. It is more possible that the present locality may be the original one.

Yours truly